new jersey turfgrass association

clippings

Green World

njta

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Monday, May 2, 2011

16th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic...

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club

811 Rattlesnake Bridge Road
Bedminster Township, NJ 07921
(908) 439-2123

Register online: www.njturfgrass.org

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President's Message

by Keith Kubik, NJTA President

An Open Letter to Mother Nature:

Dear Ms. Nature,

I hope all is well! You must be exhausted from all of your recent work. It can't be easy to produce the weather extremes we've seen over the past 12 months. As they say, "If you don't like the weather in New Jersey, just wait five minutes."

I'm sure you are no stranger to weather requests from members of the turfgrass industry. I'd like to add one more to your list,…sunshine on May 2nd. That day the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation is hosting our 16th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic at Fiddlers Elbow CC. Over the past several events, we've dealt with some rather difficult weather conditions. (In fact, two years ago one foursome played the front nine at Fiddlers before being swept up by the rushing waters of the Lamington River. They finished their round on the back nine at Fox Hollow GC downstream.)

The group that shows up for this event is truly dedicated to the turfgrass industry. Last year we passed the $1,000,000 milestone for money raised in support of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science. Karen Plumley, NJTF President, recently reported that over $70,000 went to the turfgrass program at Rutgers via the NJ Turfgrass Foundation in 2010.

- $7,500: Rutgers Turf Student Scholarships
- $50,000: Construction of a 12,000 sq ft sand-based research green at Hort Farm II
- $10,000: Toward the mortgage of the Geiger Turfgrass Education Center
- $3,000: Research support for Assistant Professor Dr. Ning Zhang

Considering that most of the participants at the Golf Classic serve as your personal punching bags the rest of the year, can you find it in your heart to provide a little sunshine on 5/2? I hope that this letter finds you in time to make it happen. I'm sorry that my request for a White Christmas came in late, but thanks for the blizzard on 12/26 just the same!

Respectfully Yours,

President, NJTA

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Please keep us informed of any changes to your member profile (Company/Address/Email)

Call/Email/Mail...

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May 2, 2011

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December 6-8, 2011

Another Year...

by Cece Peabody, MAT, CMP,
NJTA Executive Director

Another year is in full swing with the hope of better weather as well as a better economy than last year, not to mention far fewer restrictions on our industry professionals. We've witnessed positive growth in our membership and that speaks volumes about the NJTA.

NJTA is dedicated to the advancement of the turfgrass industry in the State of New Jersey and throughout the world. We value the science-based research that comes from the hard work of many at Rutgers University Center for Turfgrass Science. This information is used by the New Jersey Green Industry Council as they labor on our behalf to provide the best information to guide lawmakers in their decisions. Thanks go out to the many members who tirelessly share their time in the pursuit of the best practices possible.

We are very glad to welcome the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New Jersey as our newest Green Expo partner. The GCSANJ has been actively involved in Expo for many years, and have now become a driving force for the educational sessions being lined up for 2011. GCSANJ members have long been active members of the NJTA as well. This is a partnership that makes sense and that will benefit those in the golf industry.

We've just completed a re-design of our website at www.njturfgrass.org. While you may not immediately see the changes as the look is similar to what it was, there will be more functionality behind the scenes, as well as some new areas being developed. There is a new "Job Opportunity" page....companies can post jobs and seekers can find. Download a template form and send to me to post online.

NJTA is committed to making your membership as valuable to you as we can. Make sure you keep us up to date on your contact information. If you have suggestions to create more member value, please share: execdirector@njturfgrass.org. Thanks!

Cece Peabody
Executive Director

The Rutgers Turfgrass Classic Reaches A Milestone And Is Not Done Yet

by Shaun Barry

It took 15 years for this turfgrass research fundraiser to do something that none of its planners would have ever thought possible. This little tournament grew into perhaps the largest event of its kind in the world. The milestone that it achieved was reaching the $1 million dollar mark of funds that are ear-marked for Rutgers only. There are no dollars going to pay the staff or volunteers who make this event happen. 100% of these funds will go directly to support the work of Dr. Bruce Clarke, Dr. Bill Meyer, Dr. Jim Murphy, and everyone at the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science.

We all know that our economy is still suffering and cuts are everywhere. Rutgers is no exception to that rule and things may even get worse. What has been a life-saver for the Rutgers turfgrass program is the success of the Classic. It alone couldn`t help save jobs and research projects but it is a major part of keeping things on a positive path.

For all of our wonderful supporters from the past 15 years, we offer our sincere thanks. You have done so in a very quiet manner but please know that we couldn`t have done it without you. Our Premier Sponsors are asked to give $7,500 every year. When you realize that *Storr Tractor* and *Syngenta* have done so for 15 years we get a total that shows each company has given $112,500 to this cause. *Bayer, Cleary, John Deere/ Finch* followed right after the first companies and they are approaching the $100,000 mark. Once Bill Meyer got involved, he brought the major seed companies into the mix. It is such an important part of our industry and nobody was asking them. *ProSeeds & Alliance Seeds* and *The Scotts Co* jumped on board at the same time *BASF* and *Maxwell Turf* were able to help. The companies that I have just mentioned were our Premier Sponsors from 2010. At one time we had 15 Premier Sponsors and that is our goal once again. It however does show that even an event this successful can never be overlooked. It needs help and support every year so Rutgers can continue their efforts to help our industry.

By the time you get to read this you will have seen many notices asking for your support. If possible please try and do just that. In addition to our normal levels of support the committee acted on a couple suggestions from Keith Kubik. We know that there are often between 70 and 75 golf course superintendents who get to play as the guests of a sponsor. That is extremely important. We need to have the large field that we have, so we can utilize 3 courses at Fiddlers Elbow. What happens though is that our superintendents spend a day supporting Rutgers and they or their course never get the recognition that they were there. With that in mind we have added a Golf Club level of sponsorship. For $200 your club`s name will be added to our poster so Rutgers can see your support. It is not required that you do so but every little bit helps. Yes, you can be a Golf Club sponsor even if you weren`t able to be part of the day. We have also added the Scarlet Tee Club level that will give even more people the opportunity to donate.

We didn`t change any other level of support because it appeared that these were the only sections of our industry that had limited choices to show their support. All of the other wonderful companies who are in attendance can get signs for being an Eagle, Birdie or Par Sponsor as well as being a Hole Sponsor. This is where we find our Cemetery, Irrigation, Landscape, Lawn Maintenance, Sod Producers, Tree Companies and University supporters. Many of these educators are from other universities that have great turf programs but they understand that great research can help everyone within the turfgrass industry. This is also where we see all of the regional associations adding their support. Another large part of the success of this event comes from single individuals up to teams of 4 players that can`t move up to Par Sponsorship.

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NJ Fertilizer Law and Regulation Update

Nutrient enrichment of our waterways is a serious problem in the state, and throughout the country. As responsible professionals we want to make sure we are mindful of our environment. The sad news is that we are (Turfgrass industry) less than 2% of the total contribution to impaired waterways, yet we are targeted as if we a much larger percentage. As you may be aware, on January 5th, 2011, Governor Christie signed into Law Assembly Bill A2290, the "Fertilizer Bill". This bill, now law, is well balanced and allows us to operate our businesses in a professional and responsible manner. It is important to know that this law supersedes local municipalities from regulating fertilization of Turfgrass beginning in the year 2012.

Everyone should understand that this law will regulate fertilizer applications, specifically who, how, when, and under what parameters we can apply fertilizer to Turfgrass. This bill was passed unanimously in both the Assembly & Senate. The bill is also supported by the majority of the industry and environmentalists. Contrary to what has been inked in the press, the industry has been supportive of the bill, and highly responsive with providing technical expertise.

Outline of the Law for Professional Applicators & Businesses:

What are the elements of the newly passed A. 2290

- Establishes One State Fertilizer Standard - Pre-Emption of local municipal ordinances.
- Meaning: This law supersedes local laws currently on the books.
- For instance: this will supersede Stafford Township, Medford Lakes, Randolph, etc.
- This is good because it creates consistency for how we comply.
- It is good for customers because there is one standard for management of all properties.
- This portion of the law goes into effect in 2012.

Requires Professionals to become certified:

- Each lawn and landscape business, golf course, commercial property manager, etc. in NJ would be required to have certified fertilizer applicators conduct or supervise applications of fertilizer to turfgrass.
- Rutgers is in the process of development of the program with a team of industry and environmental stakeholders.
- The program must be developed by 2012.
- Rutgers will most likely have the certification through a website application.
- Fees still must be determined, but all monies collected will pay for the setup and management of the certification program.
- The certification program will require a test
- Certified applicators must have supervision of other applicators that apply.
- All applicators will be required to be trained, either through a Rutgers approved program or through another approved entity. The details of this are still being worked out.
- Re-Certification will be required for certified individuals. Intervals yet to be determined.

Limits Nitrogen and Phosphorus Fertilizer Applications Dates: Blackout dates (after December 1st and prior to March 1st) for professionals, or whenever the ground is frozen.

- This portion of the law goes into effect immediately (yes 2011!) and is specific to only those fertilizers that contain Nitrogen and Phosphorus. The law does not regulate potassium, lime, amendments, etc. from being applied within these blackout dates if the weather is conducive.
- Any time the ground freezes (not frost), we must not apply fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus.

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NJ Fertilizer Law and Regulation Update

...continued from page 6

Restricts applications of fertilizer from being made during heavy rainfall events, or where we have saturated soil conditions.

- This portion of the law goes into effect immediately (yes 2011!).
- Rainfall forecasts will be determined by the state climatologist at Rutgers.
- The interpretation is that the industry must avoid "wash out days" when predicted.
- When runoff or saturated soils exist, we must not apply fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus.

Establish fertilizer buffers from all water bodies: 25 feet from all water bodies, reduced to 10 feet with proper deflector equipment, drop spreader or controlled spray.

- This portion of the law goes into effect imme diately (yes 2011!).
- This is for Nitrogen and Phosphorus contain ing fertilizers.
- This includes products with fertilizers with pesticides in combination.
- The law does allow one fertility rescue treatment annually within the buffer strip if warranted *** only by professional.
- This rescue treatment allows us to at least keep the turf alive, even though it will not look as good as the rest of the turfgrass.
- Definition of Waterbody:
  "Waterbody" means a surface water feature, such as a lake, river, stream, creek, pond, lagoon, bay or estuary.

Restriction on phosphorus use: No phosphorus can be used unless soil test proves phosphorus applications are needed, after soil disturbance, or when reestablishing turf surfaces.

- Starter Fertilizer with Phosphorus can be applied to newly seeded lawns.
- Starter Fertilizer with Phosphorus can be applied when soil test results show a deficiency.
- We will be beta piloting a soil testing program with Rutgers in 2011, in an effort to show professionalism and to address this issue.
  More to come on this.
- Exemption exists for Organic Blended Fertilizers derived from manipulated vegetable and animal manures, as long as the rates do not go over 0.25 pounds of phosphorus per 1000 ft2.
- Bio-Solids are also exempt.
- It is interpreted that organic products that are not bio-solids, manipulate vegetable and animal manure will not have this exemption.
- Goes into effect 2011.

Misapplications to impervious surfaces must be blown off, collected or redirected to the Turfgrass.

- This will require granular to be swept or blow back onto the turf.
- Goes into effect 2011.

Professionals: Restricts amount of nitrogen (N) allowed in products, application rates and annual amounts of nitrogen that can be applied:

- Professionals: Maximum 0.7 LBS soluble nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.,
- 1.0 N total per application; in this example at least 30% must be insoluble (or slow release)
- Example: 1 LB of Nitrogen is applied from 20-0-10 30% SCU
- 0.70 LBS N is soluble and 0.30 LBS N is insoluble.
- 4.25 N total annual application amount.
- Goes into effect 2011

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NJ Fertilizer Law and Regulation Update

...continued from page 7

Consumers: Restricts fertilizer sold to consumers (homeowners)

- When applied according to the label directions, the product cannot deliver more than 0.70 LBS of water-soluble nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. and the total nitrogen applied at any one time cannot exceed 0.9 LBS N per 1000 sq. ft.
- The total annual amount for all applications cannot exceed 3.2 LBS N per 1000 sq. ft.
- Consumer fertilizer must have a minimum of 20% of the nitrogen content as slow-release.
- Phosphorus will be removed from all turf products, and starter fertilizer will be sold for lawns that meet the phosphorus exemption.
- Exemptions for use of phosphorus:
- Where soil test show a need.
- When establishing turf, repairing turf or re-establishing turf
- Or if the fertilizer consists of manipulated animal or vegetable manure. For these products no more than 0.25 LBS Phosphorus per 1000 sq. ft can be applied in any single application.
- Goes into effect 2013.

Fines for noncompliance: $500 fine for non compliance 1st offense, $1000 2nd offense for professional applicators.

- Enforcement can be local municipalities, soil conservation officers, county health departments and police.
- We must realize we will be watched closely, and that those areas in the state that are focal points (Raritan Bay, Barnegat Bay, and Lake Communities) will be better armed for enforcement.
- Fines and violations will be heard in municipal court or superior court.
- Goes into effect 2011.

MEET A BOARD MEMBER: Tracy Wadhams

Tracy Wadhams is the Managing Member and Chief Director of Traywood GreenScapes, LLC, a landscape consulting company located in Flanders, NJ. Traywood GreenScapes provides landscape design, installation, revitalization, and diagnostic services to residential customers. Tracy is also a Rutgers Certified Master Gardener Aurum Insigne Turf Educator and Rutgers Environmental Steward. Tracy graduated from Northeastern University, Boston, MA, with B.S. Business Administration in Transportation & Logistics Management, B.A. English Writing.

You may have seen Tracy's familiar face over the years at many events leading the way as one of our Field Guides at Field Days or Registration at Green Expo or taking names at the Silent Auction at our Golf Classic. This year, Tracy is Co-Chairing Field Days with Pedro Perdomo.

Tracy donates her time unselfishly to the NJTA and the Rutgers Master Gardener program while working in the green industry as well as giving back to her community in various civic organizations. She spearheads all turf samples that come into the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County and assists and teaches Master Gardeners turf fundamentals for residential landscapes and administers quality controls for a better Helpline process. She is a member of the Mt. Olive Open Space Committee, Mt. Olive Environmental Committee, and the Chairwoman of Mt. Olive Pride Committee

In the winter months, Tracy is a driving school instructor, earns CEUs, and cleans her house. A little know fact about Tracy -- she is a beekeeper and breeds and shows Champion Wire Fox Terriers. Tracy is single and lives in Budd Lake.

Why SFMANJ Opposes the "Safe Playing Fields Act"

By Don Savard, CSFM, CGM

I was not expecting the phone call on Monday, January 31. Nancy Sadlon, Executive Director, New Jersey Green Industry Council (NJGIC) called me at work with news that New Jersey State Senate Bill S.2610, the so-called "Safe Playing Fields Act", was moving through committee. This Bill, if enacted into law would ban the use of lawn care pesticides on sports fields in New Jersey, unless the application can be justified as an emergency response to an immediate threat to human health. Because we are an organization of sports field managers and would be directly affected by the outcome should this Bill pass into law, Ms. Sadlon requested the help of Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey (SFMANJ).

Over the past 5 years, SFMANJ has tried to remain apolitical. Our mission is and has always been enhancing the professionalism of athletic field managers. Our primary goals include improving safety, playability, and appearance of athletic fields at all levels.

Since our inception in 2000, SFMANJ members have had the opportunity to achieve these goals through seminars, field days, publications, and networking with those in the sports turf industry. After some thought and discussion, the SFMANJ Board of Directors agreed to lend our support to NJGIC in opposing this Bill. I would like to share with you our reasons.

Safety - The goal of sports field management is to provide a safe and playable surface. Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey has always been an advocate of good cultural management and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on sports fields. We also acknowledge that the careful, restrained use of pesticides can be a component of a site-specific sports field management plan. Sports fields are subjected to many stresses - some made by people, some are caused by nature. Sports field managers are expected (by the people we serve) to do everything possible to keep sports fields safe and playable. In order to meet these expectations, we need all of the tools available to get the job done – including conventional pesticide products. If the Safe Playing Fields Act is enacted, some of our most effective tools will be taken away.

New Jersey School IPM Law - New Jersey already has in-place a School IPM Law. Should the use of a non-low impact pesticide become necessary, there is a well-defined protocol that must be followed before such a product can be used. The current Law requires having an IPM coordinator and IPM plan, NJ DEP Category 13 pesticide licensing, 72 hour notification, preferential use of low impact pesticides, 7-hour reentry period, and stringent record keeping. Applying a traditional pesticide in accordance with the NJ School IPM Law provides transparency through its notification requirements and added security against potential exposure through a mandatory reentry period. The Safe Playing Fields Act, if enacted would virtually eliminate traditional pesticide use; applications that are already subject to a well-defined, well-regulated protocol in Schools.

Economic Realities - A carefully planned, conventional pesticide application, in full-compliance with US EPA registered pesticide label requirements and NJ School IPM rules can provide maximum cost benefits. Conventional pesticide applications can be used to solve turf health problems quickly and effectively. Taking no action or using less-effective products may result in field loss, subsequent costly field replacement and a substantial loss of field space for use by children and parents. If we do not protect sports field surfaces from natural or manmade damage, we risk having to spend considerable taxpayer money to replace or repair sports field damage caused by pests. Currently, many New Jersey Schools and municipalities are cutting expenses by eliminating positions and programs. This is not the time to remove tools from the toolbox.

The NJGIC is a very effective watchdog group looking out for the interests of New Jersey's Green Industry. As previously mentioned, NJGIC alerted SFMANJ to this bill and has asked for comments and participation from our Association. In contrast, those organizations supporting and lobbying for the passage of this Bill have not reached-out to SFMANJ for our opinion on this Bill; our Association being the leading Industry trade organization representing sports field managers in New Jersey. Without the efforts of NJGIC, issues affecting our Industry (and our livelihoods) could go forward in Trenton with upsetting results. The NJGIC has asked for our support, and SFMANJ has stepped-up. Several of our members have attended meetings with legislators, written letters and testified at hearings. At the March 2, 2011 SFMANJ Board of Directors meeting, our Board agreed unanimously to make a $1,000 contribution to NJGIC with the stipulation that the contribution be used to help offset operating expenses.

In the end, our endeavor is to continue to create the safest playing conditions for all of New Jersey's sports field users.

NOTE: Members of the SFMANJ Board of Directors participated in a Stakeholders meeting at the New Jersey State House Annex called by Assemblywoman Annette Quijano and Assemblyman John F. McKeon on March 21, 2011 to voice concerns over the impact of passage of the Safe Playing Fields Act.

Don Savard is a Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM) and Certified Grounds Manager (CGM); Director, Athletic Facilities and Grounds, Salesianum School; and President, SFMANJ.

Article from SFMANJ Update, Spring 2011, Vol 11, No 1.

An SFMANJ Member's Prepared Testimony Concerning New Jersey's Proposed 'Safe Playing Fields Act'

The following was prepared and read by Rich Watson, Grounds Supervisor, Pine Hill Public Schools and SFMANJ Board of Directors, at the New Jersey State Assembly Environmental and Solid Waste Committee Hearing in Trenton, NJ on Thursday, February 10, 2011.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Rich Watson. I am the Grounds Supervisor for the Pine Hill School District in Southern New Jersey. It is a privilege for me to be here. The issue of safe playing fields is an important issue to all of us here today. It is important to me because I have three daughters, two of which play sports. One daughter plays on fields that have little or no maintenance performed on them, while the other plays on well maintained fields. Both sites are considered sports fields. One is safe the other is not. The unsafe field is at a local school and it amazes me that they let kids play on it. The other field is a municipal field. It is well maintained and plays great. This is where the real safety issues on sports fields are. Pesticides didn't cause one field to be unsafe and the other safe. They are a small part of a complete turf program that is the key to safe fields.

I am here today to talk about our sports turf program in Pine Hill. If you pull up to any of our buildings you will be disappointed in the condition of our grass. These lawns are covered with weeds and crabgrass. We as a district are ok with that. Our kids who compete in athletics or take part in gym class play on well maintained natural turf playing surfaces. Together we have decided to put our focus where the kids actually play and compete. We have a 40 year old facility that is in need of cosmetic attention, but we have some of the best playing fields in NJ. So, how did we do it?

The development of a Sports Turf IPM program took shape. We have taken the guidelines set up by the School IPM Law and fit our sports turf program inside. It was not easy at first. I struggled with the additional notifications and had doubts about if it would work at all. It took a lot of hard work, but over time we developed a program that not only worked, it exceeded my expectations. Here is how we did it.

The first thing was to develop a field history for each individual field. Then problem areas were identified and pest thresholds were set. Next, we took a look at what had been done in the past to determine what worked and what needed to be changed. What we discovered was that cultural practices are the backbone of our turf program. They include: Mowing frequency/mowing height, aeration, fertility with soil testing, seeding during our sports seasons, and proper irrigation. These are the building blocks for our fields.

I know by now you are wondering how we deal with pest issues. In a school district costs are always a concern. Our supply budget has been cut and most likely will not be going up any time soon. The cost for our pest control on our athletic fields this year was $1,425. That included three granular applications and two spray applications. Just for the record, one application was made during Spring break with notification and the others were all made during the summer also with notification. No children were on the property at the time of applications and fields were closed until the re-entry period had expired. All applications were made because the pest threshold set in our IPM program had been exceeded. Before these applications were made, we considered other low-impact /biological options. I understand there is a lot of talk about alternatives to chemical lawn management that work and are cost effective. I don't think we are there yet. I think we need to compare apples to apples. Corn gluten for example, is an accepted organic weed control product. Corn gluten costs $29.95 per bag and covers 1,000 square ft. (at the lowest rate) The average football field is 66,000 square ft. In order to apply pre-emergent weed control for this field, it will cost $1,976.70 for 66 bags. That is one application on one field at the products lowest rate. That is not cost effective in my book.

Nematodes have been suggested to replace insecticides. I have never used them, but I understand that they are difficult to work with, since they are a living organism. The cost for nematodes is $200 per acre plus shipping. Compared to Merit at less than $100 per acre, there really is no cost comparison. If I believed that nematodes would work in large scale applications, I would consider trying them. However, the cost and Dr. Koppenhoffer of Rutgers recommendation that they are not a good choice for sports fields has steered me away from them. I am not against any of these or other organic products. I just don't feel at this time with the current budget crisis and lack of unbiased research, we can use these products. Hopefully in the future the cost will come down in price and there will be a realistic way to use them in large scale applications.

The bottom line is we run a well rounded turf program in Pine Hill. It is not a pesticide program. The charge that schools are needlessly using lawn pesticides does not apply in our district. Synthetic pesticides are a very small part of our sports turf program. They are the last line of defense for the sports turf manager to keep their fields safe for the children using them. I know that weeds, insects, and fungi are not threats to human life. But, left unchecked they can be a considerable safety risk to the very children that are being protected by this proposed legislation.

I have been maintaining the athletic fields at Overbrook High School for over 20 years now. In 2009 the Philadelphia Inquirer named our football field "The Best in South Jersey". I am very proud of the progress that we have made. Our IPM program has worked so well that the Borough of Pine Hill has enlisted our

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Judgment day for a synthetic turf field?

by Brad Park

What does a municipality or board of education do with a synthetic infill field when it's time to replace the surface? Does the public body have a plan and/or the resources to tear-out, dispose-of, and replace the carpet and infill? How many officials will simply kick the 'can' down the road and arrive at the decision to "get another year out of it" when faced at the costs of replacement? Will they kick it again going into 2012? How about 2013?

While visiting family over Thanksgiving, I read an article in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review published on November 25, 2010 regarding a suburban Pittsburgh school district contemplating the replacement of their 8-yr-old all-rubber infill synthetic field. The article titled, Study to find whether new turf needed was authored by Heidi Dezayas and can be digitally acquired at www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_710871.html

The article serves as an example of what I have observed to be a common oversight related to synthetic turf fields. That is: Many governing bodies don't have a clue how they're going to come-up with the funds to replace their synthetic turf fields, particularly in these times of fiscal belt tightening.

According to article, Gateway School District's Athletic Director indicated that the turf is falling apart in some places and maintenance crews are involved in gluing numbers and lines back into the carpet. The Athletic Director was reported to have received a letter from East Suburban Sports Medicine saying that this year was the first year where athletes received a lot of skin burns. He attributed it to the synthetic field behaving like "a carpet in your house; it wears and starts to flatter … as it flattens, it becomes more of a safety hazard".

The article stated that the projected replacement costs range from $300,000 to $350,000.

The response from the school board? The article quoted on member as saying, "Besides the warranty being over … is there anything saying it's not safe? … Gluing and re-gluing is normal".

A second Gateway school board member provided his own insight as to the source of the field's gluing and re-gluing problems. He surmised that, "… the problem could be that the field is used for too many things."

Lastly, Gateway board member Scott Williams chimed-in on the funding issues for replacing the synthetic turf field and reminded all that when the existing field was installed 8 years ago there were discussions to allow advertising on the scoreboard to help offset the future costs of field replacement. The advertising never happened.

The article reported that the school board agreed to tour the field and an independent contractor was being sought after to test the field and determine if it is safe. While the article did not specify the nature of testing, the questions arising at this school district underscore the argument in support of independent field testing to assess field performance – particularly surface hardness.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has developed the Standard Specification for Shock-Absorbing Properties of North American Football Field Playing Systems as Measured in the Field (ASTM F 1936-98) and describes methodology and field locations to be tested with equipment conforming to Test Method F 355, Procedure A.

Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the nature of surface hardness testing, or the stringent nature of the performance requirement "… the average Gmax of one or more of the tested points is in excess of 200 average Gmax, the surface system should be replaced in full or in part", the reality of surface hardness testing is that it amounts to a quantification of field characteristics and can be incorporated into the field replacement decision making process.

Finally, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review article reported that Gateway athletic director made the judgment that the turf could hold-up for another year, but officials should begin to consider how to pay to replace it. He was quoted as saying, "We have to have a plan …"

SEE RELATED PHOTO ON PAGE 16

Article first appeared in SFMANJ *Update*

Winter 2010, Vol 10, No. 4

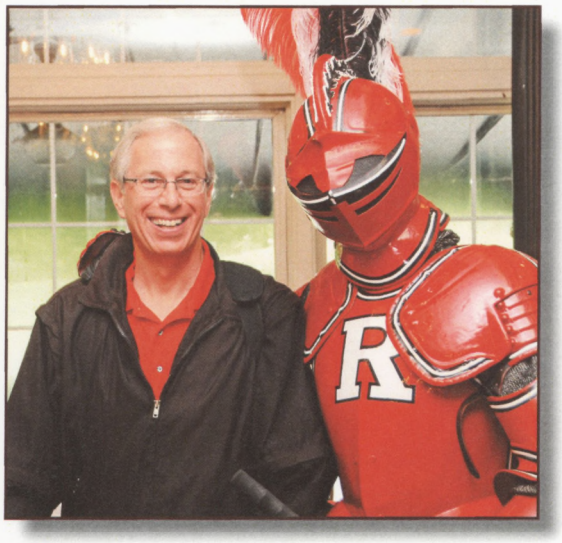
Brad Park is Sports Turf Research & Education Coordinator, Rutgers Univ.; SFMANJ Board member; and Editor, SFMANJ Update.

Rutgers Turfgrass Classic ...continued from pg 5

We made some changes to our schedule last year. They were successful and we will keep the same times in an effort to help people finish their day a little bit earlier. This year we will have some new changes to the menu both during the reception and dinner. Please let us know what you think of these changes. We will again have an hour of education with credits from most of our surrounding states as well as from GCSAA. This will happen in the morning.

Rick Krok will once again be running the Silent Auction. It is a big job so if you can donate anything please contact him with your donation or let him know what you would like to see on the auction. Both will be very helpful. If you see something that you like or need please register, get your number and place a bid. We have decided to eliminate names from the sheets so bids are done anonymously with only numbers being used.

Thanks for all of your past support and I hope to see you at Fiddler`s Elbow on May 2, 2011.



Dr. Bruce Clarke, Director, Center for Turfgrass Science, Rutgers University.... and The Scarlet Knight.... taken at the 2010 Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic.

MEET A BOARD MEMBER: Dennis DeSanctis Jr.

Dennis DeSanctis, Jr. joined the NJTA Board of Directors in October of 2010. He is a graduate of Rutgers University with a BS in Plant Science, minor in Turfgrass Science; and an MBA in Marketing. During his time as an undergraduate at Rutgers he was President of the Rutgers Turf Club and attended two GCSAA conferences as a member of the Rutgers 'Turf Bowl' team.

Prior to graduating Rutgers he worked as an intern at Knob Hill Golf Club during the grow-in process under Superintendent, Mike King. He also worked as an intern/spray-technician at Metedeconk National Golf Club under Superintendent, Bruce Cadenelli. Since he graduated Rutgers in 2001 he has continued to work in the Turfgrass industry, starting with an internship in the research and development department of Bayer Environmental Science, followed by employment with the Terre Company of New Jersey. For the past 6 years, to present, Dennis has been employed as a regional manager for Syngenta Professional Products in the golf and landscape market. In late 2010 his territory was changed from Metropolitan NY/CT to New Jersey and Long Island, and he is happy to be back in New Jersey!

In his free time he enjoys attending Rutgers Football games as a season ticket holder, golfing the great courses throughout New Jersey, and spending time with friends and family. His family includes his father, Dennis DeSanctis, Sr., past NJTA President (1983) and NJTA Hall of Fame winner (1996).

"As a board member of the NJTA I will strive to contribute to the best of my abilities, and continue to strengthen the relationship that the NJTA has with Rutgers University and allied associations, such as the GCSANJ and NJGIC. The NJTA provides great resources to its members and I only see that continuing to improve. I am honored to be a part of such a great association."

The Golf Classic Event - May 2, 2011

Proceeds from the **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic** will be used to provide Research Grants, Scholarships, Funds for Special Projects (e.g., a new Sand-Based Root Zone), Equipment, Supplies, and Facilities to support Turfgrass Research and Education at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences/Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Rutgers University and the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation represent a formidable alliance in support of the Turfgrass Industry in the State of New Jersey and across the country. The Foundation is a non-profit organization which may accept and manage tax-deductible monetary donations and the proceeds from events such as this Golf Classic.

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Golf Classic Registration Information

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**** Registration Includes:*** *Rutgers Research Update, Greens Fees and Golf Cart, Lunch on course, Silent Auction, Grand Reception, Gift*

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SILENT AUCTION WINNERS ENJOY COOKING CLASS AT FIDDLER'S ELBOW COUNTRY CLUB

Last year's Silent Auction was a rousing success - one of the unique items was a Cooking Class held with Chef Burnett at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. Everyone learned something new and said the day was exciting and fun! There ended up being two days of cooking because there were so many winners...Enjoy some photos...ummm good!

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MEET A BOARD MEMBER: Craig Tolley

Craig Tolley is an Assistant Professor in the Landscape and Horticultural Technology Department at the County College of Morris. He has been with County College of Morris since 1998. Craig teaches a variety of courses including: Turfgrass Management, Plant Science, Introduction to Horticulture, Horticultural Soils, Grounds Maintenance, Irrigation Systems, Plant Pest Management, Turf and Landscape Installation, and Landscape Construction. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Plant Science, Agronomic Option from Cook College, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey and a Masters of Science in Plant Biology from Rutgers the State University of New Jersey.

Craig has been active in several professional associations, including the New Nursery and Landscape Association, New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, The Professional Landcare Network, New Jersey Sport Field Managers Association, and the Sports Turf Managers Association. He has been on the board of directors for the New Jersey Sport Field Managers Association for six years, and served as President for two years.

Craig has been married for 17 years and is the proud father of two boys. He and his wife, Margaret, enjoy spending time with their boys: skiing, fishing, riding rollercoasters, attending midget football games and mini-golf.

'Safe Playing Fields Act' Testimony

...continued from pg 10

help in turning around their municipal fields. This is not because of our pesticide program, but rather because the mayor and council trust our judgment and respect our work. We in return, want to bring safe playing fields to the youngest athletes in Pine Hill also.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee again for allowing me to give you a hands on look at what is going on in sports turf management. Safe playing fields should be the goal for everyone. It is my hope that there can be some common ground found in regards to the judicious use of pesticides on sports fields. At this time I don't think the Safe Playing Fields Act will make our playing fields safer. Right now in NJ, there are many school and municipal fields in desperate need of renovation. I don't want to see more join this list. Please think carefully before considering this legislation.

Rich Watson is Grounds Supervisor, Pine Hill Public Schools; and a Member of the SFMANJ Board of Directors.

Article first appeared in SFMANJ Update

Spring 2011, Vol 11, No 1

Judgment day for synthetic turf field?
Article on page 11

A lack of attention to synthetic fields may result in severe seam damage as in the case of this all-rubber synthetic infill field (Photo by Matt Olivi).

Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days 2011

by Pedro Perdomo, Field Day Chairman

It seems that winter does not want to quit this year and here I am already talking to you about the Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days. It may be a nice change this year to look at snow mold trials in July, but with our luck we'll go from 40° F to 100° F in record time to insure that field days are as hot as usual.

So how hot have the field days been? Well, we have hit triple digits in past years, but what is in store for 2011? Well, if we stay close to the average temperatures for the day we would expect a normal high of 86° F, for the Golf and Fine Turf Day. Last year we were very close to normal high of 88° F. So if we keep our fingers crossed perhaps we can get a seasonally average day. We have been much warmer in years past and even in the same month last year. If we had held the event on July 6, 2010, we would have been dealing with 103° F degree weather. Our water service got a slight respite as attendees only went through about half as much water as usual so I know the temperatures were not bad but it still seemed hot to me.

What about at the Lawn and Sports Field Day? Well, here we were not as lucky. Temperatures were above the normal high of 84° F, with the high getting up to 90° F. This was definitely better than earlier that month when July 7, 2010, got up to 101° F. We went through more water here, but you all survived. This year we expect a normal high of 84° F, which is definitely doable.

So, I will be hoping for normal temperatures and tossing a penny into the local wishing well to insure the weather is fine. But at least we have been able to avoid the rain. What else can we expect aside from the weather?

Field day stops have been one of the key components of the field days and we will continue to bring the same quality to these stops. Last year was a great year for disease and we have to hope that this year will be too.

A survey of the field days will be distributed after the events so that we can get your take on the event and any changes that you may want to see. We have tried to change things up over the past few years and have received many remarks regarding these changes. But it will be nice to get something from other attendees to help make the field days that much stronger.

Also there is the Silent Auction which we have held for a few years now. We have struggled with this component of field days as many attendees are not aware that there is a Silent Auction. Last year we had pesticide products, wine, fertilizer spreaders, and Rutgers classes on the list of auction items. This year we will advertise this fact better and will be looking to add new items to entice all attendees. If you want to become a Silent Auction participant do not hesitate to contact Cece Peabody. Remember that all proceeds go to the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation which helps support Rutgers research.

This year you will see the same faces volunteering at field days. If you want to become part of the field days, send Cece a line. We are always interested in adding a few more members to the committee.

So for now I will let you go and hope to see all of you this July 26 and 27 at the Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days.

CHECK WWW.NJTURFGRASS.ORG FOR REGISTRATION FORMS AND BROCHURES

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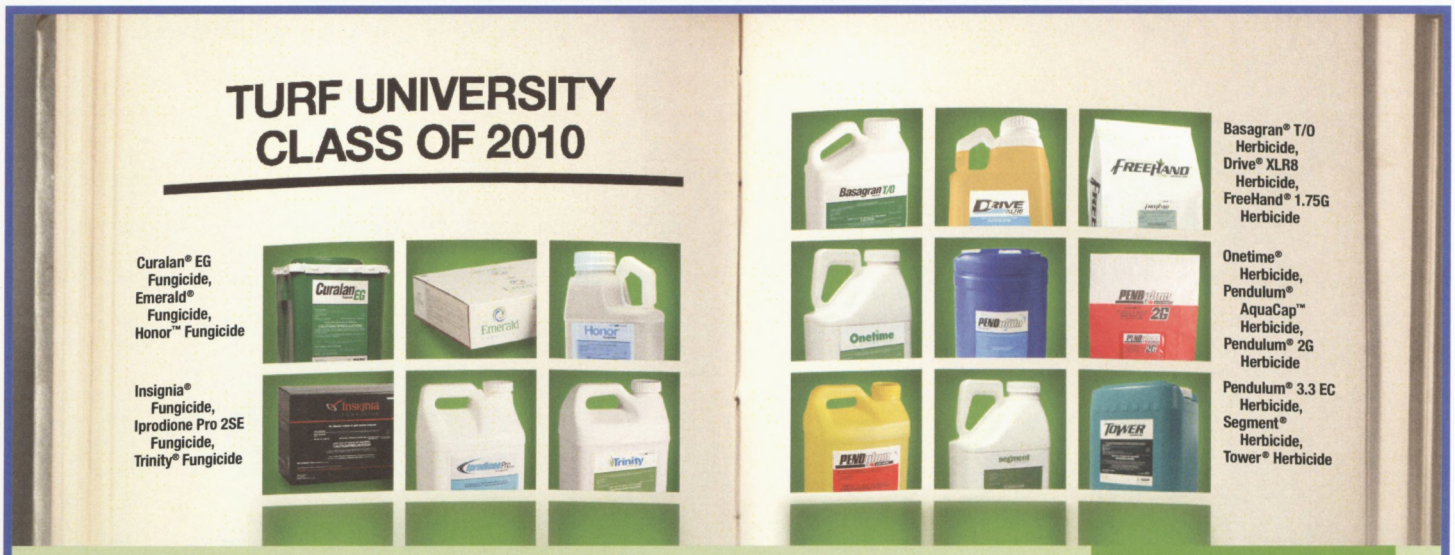
GCSANJ Foundation Members(L to R): Bruce Peeples, Fred Rapp, Jim Cadott, Ken Kubik, Dr. Karen Plumley (NJTF), Shaun Barry, Lance Rogers



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Sport Turf

Level 1 Fertility Test: Nutrients, pH, recommendations
Level 2 Complete Test: Nutrients, pH, estimated CEC & cation saturation, soluble salt level, organic matter* content, soil textural class
Level 3 Sand Root Zone Test

*Organic matter content would be determined by loss-on-ignition for golf course greens, as described by USGA guidelines.

For more information please call us at 732/932-9295, or visit us on the web at: **www.rcre.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab**.

www.rcre.rutgers.edu/services

CALENDAR

2011 NJTA Events

Monday, May 2, 2011
Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Far Hills, NJ

Tuesday, July 26, 2011
Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days: Golf & Fine Turf
Hort Farm II, New Brunswick NJ

Wednesday, July 27, 2011
Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Days: Lawn, Landscape & Sports Fields
Adelphia Farm, Freehold NJ

December 6-8, 2011
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